

## BELMONT A VEXED WITNESS

THIS IS THE COMMITTEE THEY KNOW ALL HE CAN TELL.

Bank Losses Ledger of the Westchester Association. Amasa Thornton's \$250 for Reconciling the Clergy to Racing—\$1,000 to Leader of Politically Unemployed.

August Belmont appeared in the witness chair of the legislative investigating committee yesterday afternoon and had read into the record his letter published in the Sun Tuesday morning. Then Judge Rogers examined the witness on some points touched upon in the letter and examined him also on the testimony of a preceding witness concerning expenditures of the Westchester Racing Association, which operates Belmont Park. Before this examination was completed Mr. Belmont had testily accused Judge Rogers of asking "misleading questions" and trying to confuse him. Judge Rogers pointed out that the witness had interrupted questions, but the encounter continued in a muddle of misunderstanding, when the witness frankly confessed that he could no longer follow the examiner's meaning and counsel gave up trying to make himself understood.

John A. Cockley, assistant treasurer of the Westchester Racing Association, the witness preceding Mr. Belmont, had explained a part of the association's financial ledger in 1908. Part of it was a check for \$250 given to Amasa Thornton. When Mr. Belmont was asked about this payment he said that the money had been paid to Mr. Thornton for his services in creating among ministers an opinion favorable to the sport of racing.

Mr. Belmont was unable to enlighten the committee as to the precise means Mr. Thornton took to incline the minds of ministers favorably toward the sport of racing. Mr. Kresel produced a letter showing that Mr. Thornton preferred that the check be to receive in payment for his missionary work should not come from the Westchester Racing Association, but from Mr. Belmont personally. The letter read:

Personal.  
August Belmont, Esq.  
DEAR SIR: Unless it makes a great difference to you I would rather you would send me your check. The amount is not large and I prefer to have my relations with you as possible. Yours truly,  
AMASA THORNTON.

An interesting development of the day came through the testimony of Q. Kirkland, cashier of the Mutual Bank. In the subpoena served upon him he was directed to produce the bank's ledger showing the account of the Metropolitan Turf Association (the bookmakers' club) with the Mutual Bank. The witness said that the ledger showing that account from January 1, 1908, until June 11, 1908, the latter being the date of the passage of the anti-racing gambling bill, could not be found. The witness could offer no explanation. The ledger had been used as late as January, 1910, but since that time had disappeared. The witness was excused after being directed to produce the Metropolitan Turf Association's deposit slips for the period covered by the lost ledger.

Charles B. Calhoun, chief clerk of the Lincoln Trust Company, produced a transcript of the account of the Metropolitan Turf Association with the trust company, upon which he is to be further examined.

Mr. Cockley testified that the Westchester Association's legal expenses in 1907 were \$18,962.79, and in 1908 \$39,369.19, but in 1909 there was a credit balance to the account caused by the refunding of some contributions previously made. In 1908 Maurice M. Minton had been paid \$7,500 in various checks drawn by Mr. Felz, treasurer of the association, and countersigned by Mr. Belmont. That was for publicity. In the same manner and for the same purpose C. J. Fitzgerald was paid \$2,125.30 and W. B. Hunter \$3,500, and as has been mentioned, Amasa Thornton \$250. The association's press bureau received a check for \$750.75, which appeared to be the Westchester's share of a total payment of \$4,000 on account of the press bureau of the Jockey Club.

The next witness was A. Mel. Earle, who when asked what his business was answered: "Well, that is hard to tell. I am a jack of all trades, I guess." Among his trades, he further testified, was assistant to all the officials of the Westchester Racing Association. He was being examined about salaries of officials of the association and said that the treasurer, although not formerly paid a salary, was paid one now, and told this story in explanation:

"Mr. Hitchcock is our president and he suggested to any of the officials drawing salary as he did not draw any himself. Andrew Miller, our treasurer, was rather anxious to receive a salary, but when the motion came up it was always vetoed by the board. They ordered Mr. Hitchcock, however, at one of the meetings of our stockholders and after that they awarded a salary to Mr. Miller. That is, they paid him a back salary since the organization and put him on a regular salary of \$5,000 a year."

The witness said that Mr. Miller was the publisher of Life, and the matter of his salary had been much discussed. It appears that Mr. Miller received \$25,000, but \$10,000 of that, the witness said, was for services for organizing the present Westchester Racing Association. He was merely a coincidence that the payment of \$25,000 to Mr. Miller appeared immediately under an entry of a payment made to F. F. Coyne for legal expenses. Mr. Agerton Danneberg, assistant secretary of the Jockey Club, testified as to the amounts paid by each of the racing associations to make up the Jockey Club's allotment in 1908 of \$1,000 for legal expenses and \$12,500 for publicity.

When Mr. Belmont took the witness stand, Mr. Bruce first asked him as to the knowledge of the so-called Cascoy bill of 1906. His memory being refreshed by counsel, Mr. Belmont testified that he knew that the bill related to racing, but he did not know that it was a law. He provided that upon such examination imposed after conviction for racing, and the guilty persons should be sentenced for not less than one year in prison. Mr. Belmont testified that the Cascoy bill died in the Committee on the Jockey Club had employed counsel for the purpose of presenting a bill with reference to the measure to the legislature. This preceded the passage of the anti-racing bill. Mr. Belmont testified that the anti-racing bill was Mr. Jerome's bill. Mr. Bruce asked if it was the Agnew-Stanley bill. It was much the name as the Agnew-Stanley bill, which passed in 1906.

Mr. Bruce wanted to know who employed Judge Coyne. The witness said, "I do not know, excepting the general agent among us." Judge Bruce read from the testimony of Frank K. Sturge, wherein the latter witness had said that the legal business of the Jockey Club was always transacted by Mr. August Belmont. The witness said that he knew little about those matters beyond Judge Coyne's general attention to after change in the Jockey Club's sponsor, Judge Bruce asked: "Did Congressman Wadsworth speak to you about Mr. Coyne's employment?" and the witness answered: "What—oh, no. I say in my letter that it was most

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naturally—I cannot recall exactly that but when I had a letter from Mr. Wadsworth, Congressman Wadsworth, in 1906, in that I found in which he recommended Judge Coyne in the same manner as I stated—I imagine from that that that led, you know, to the recommendation I don't know.

The witness, inquired of as to what Judge Coyne did for \$40,000 at Albany in 1907, responded that Judge Coyne "attended the various sessions, followed the legislative and the registered and met representatives of the agricultural associations there and brought about the attendance of these various representatives at the sessions."

Counsel hammered away on this point for some time, but the witness contributed no further light.

As to the \$40,000 raised in 1908 by the Jockey Club, "for future legal expenses," the witness said: "This fund was raised without the knowledge of counsel, and it was done in order that it should not be known to counsel that a large fund was at my disposal to pay them." Of this fund \$9,000 is yet undistributed.

Mr. Belmont said that Davies, Stone & Auerbach had been for the past fifteen years the recognized attorneys of the various racing associations. They acted, if necessary, without consultation or direction. Further explaining that during most of that time he had paid considerable attention to racing legal affairs, the witness drifted into a political story, saying:

"But when I ceased to be chairman of the State Racing Commission I didn't give it so much attention, because at that time, for the first time in the history of racing politics had entered into the appointment of the Racing Commission."

It was reported to Gov. Higgins that the position of a racing commissioner carried with it patronage, and therefore, Mr. Higgins' first choice was a candidate for the position of racing commissioner up the State.

The witness said that the commission had been patronized whatever Gov. Higgins appointed two commissioners, "both of them Republicans," to take the commissions held by the witness and E. D. Morgan.

The witness was examined at great length as to the Westchester Racing Association's expenditure of \$17,500 for publicity in 1908, but he knew no new figures beyond that except in respect to the services performed by Amasa Thornton. The latter had told Mr. Belmont that there was "quite a number of clerical men that he knew that believe you are conducting racing in a proper way and that they would when occasion required" permit Mr. Thornton "to present the matter to them."

Mr. Belmont began to lose his serenity when Mr. Bruce asked him if the Jockey Club's expenditure of \$12,000 for publicity was not in addition to the \$17,500 disbursed by the Westchester Racing Association. The witness first replied, "I don't know what you are talking about," and then added: "Well, if you will please make a jump from one thing to another that way."

Judge Bruce altered the form of the question, and asked: "Did you ask me back at the time when I asked you that?"

Counsel started to explain, but Mr. Belmont interrupted him, saying: "Exactly. No, you didn't ask me in regard to another fund to mislead me." A little later the witness exclaimed: "These figures have been juggled and confused and as you say you have confused every one else."

"I don't think you have been a bit confused," responded Judge Bruce, "and I am going to ask my questions and see if I can make myself clear."

The witness complained that Mr. Kresel had been through all the questions and added: "You have everything that could be furnished, and if you don't know I can't tell you, and I decline to answer any further questions. A little later in answer to his question, the witness exclaimed: "I told you twenty times that I cannot tell you. Now I am going to ask my questions and see if I can make myself clear."

Mr. Belmont responded that he had nothing further, but that he would like to look over the record of the stenographers to make a copy of the evidence and opportunity to correct it if he wished.

Robert Cummings was called. He is an attorney whose name has appeared in the testimony as among the recipients of some of the disbursements for legal expenses incurred in fighting the Agnew-Stanley bill. The witness in 1906 he thought was about \$7,000. He had rendered a bill for it and Mr. Kresel had paid the bill and furnished a charge made by the witness of \$1,000 to E. Shaughnessy, compensation as agreed. The witness said that Mr. Shaughnessy had described himself as

"the leader of the politically unemployed." That interested Mr. Kresel very much and he sought diligently to learn from the witness what service a politically unemployed person might render wherefore he should receive \$1,000. The witness said as to Mr. Shaughnessy, "Why, he was familiar with political situations in the State and he assisted Mr. Auerbach with regard to those matters."

It appears that Mr. Shaughnessy also went to Albany in the interest of the racing fraternity and had his expenses paid. Mr. Shaughnessy's portrait was left somewhat unfinished when Mr. Kresel directed the attention of the witness to "a charge in your bill for C. H. Betts, services, general bill, compensation as agreed, \$1,500." The witness said that Mr. Betts was the proprietor of a newspaper, the Lyons Republican. He thought that Mr. Betts had no political connections while he was rendering his \$1,500 worth of services, but Mr. Kresel, who has a bewildering amount of data on hand, produced a Legislative annual for 1909, in which it appeared that Charles H. Betts was chief of the revision bureau in that year. The witness agreed with Mr. Kresel that it was the same Betts. He was sitting in opposition to the Cassidy-Lanning bill.

Mr. Cummings himself said that his work in relation to the racing bills was entirely legal. The committee resumes its hearings at 1 o'clock this morning, when Mr. Evans, secretary of the Metropolitan Turf Association, will be inquired of further.

### INVITES HIS WIFE TO RENO.

She Won't Join Him There and Sues for Separation Here.

Impressions of a New Yorker who has just joined the Eastern colony at Reno, Nev., are contained in papers submitted to Supreme Court Justice Davis yesterday by the Lillian Patterson Dale, when she got permission to serve a complaint by publication in a suit for separation against Francis Colgate Dale, who is in Reno.

Mrs. Dale is the daughter of Dr. Frank N. Patterson of 31 West Fifth street and is a graduate of the Wadsworth High School and the Normal College. She was married to Dale in January, 1909, when she was 19. Dale was in the real estate business at 43 Exchange place until recently. He is a son of the late Chalmers Dale, a broker, and his wife, says, has an income of \$30,000 from the estate of his father and his grandparents. His brother, Chalmers Dale, Jr., married Sadie Peters, an actress, when she was in the chorus of "The Girl from Kays." One of Mrs. Dale's complaints against her husband is that he threatened to leave all his property to Mrs. Chalmers Dale, Jr.

Mrs. Dale says her husband abandoned her on September 3 and on October 3 telephoned her to meet him at the Pennsylvania station in Jersey City in half an hour. She couldn't, and on October 25 she got a letter from him mailed from Reno, Nev. This letter stated that Dale was in search of climate suited to his physical condition and said he was delighted to find that there was a substantial Eastern colony here, composed of very respectable and hospitable people. Dale said it cost him to live in Reno than in New York and suggested that his wife come on there with their baby. He told her it would be a good chance for her to reduce, "which I believe is one of your principal desires."

Mrs. Dale said that since June 1, 1909, her husband had treated her cruelly, and that on one occasion at the Gramatan Inn he accused her of taking money from his pocket and told her he could have her arrested if she were a delinquent. He ordered her to bed at 9 o'clock every night, she said, and if she would not go he turned out the lights. Once when she was ill her husband hired an amateur band to come to the house and play, and when she asked them to stop, her husband had them keep right on. She says he took her jewelry from her safe deposit box and she is suing him to get it back. Once when her mother wanted to accompany them to a concert at the Hotel Astor Dale said he would have to take \$10 off her monthly allowance if her mother went.

The Dales lived at 145 West Seventy-sixth street until they separated.

When the Dales lived at 145 West Seventy-sixth street until they separated.

### DIES IN FULTON MARKET FIRE.

Watchman Who Claimed Descent From Robert Fulton Was Asleep in Tower.

Thirty stalls occupying the south end of the old Fulton Market on South street were burned out early yesterday afternoon. Billy Fulton, 45 years old, a night watchman in the market, was burned to death while asleep in the cupola at the southeast corner. He was one of the best known characters about the market and the dealers felt his loss more than their \$5,000 loss of produce.

The fire started a little before noon in the fish and oyster stalls of Behrens & Avery on the Fulton street side. It is presumed that their gas stove became overheated and ignited the woodwork. Behrens grabbed a bucket of water but the water was frozen. Behrens then ran across the street to turn in an alarm while his partner warned the dealers in the market.

The flames quickly leaped the flimsy partitions of the stalls and spread rapidly. The firemen confined it to the southeast end of the building.

Hundreds of pounds of beef were singed, barrels of oysters and clams were roasted, baskets of vegetables were ruined and lobster after lobster turned crimson before anybody thought of the watchman asleep in the tower. Firemen Dunnevery and Orr of Hook and Ladder 15 found the body when they climbed into the tower with a line of hose. The mattress on which Fulton had lain was burned. The body was removed to the Morgue, as nobody knew anything of Fulton's affairs except that he took every Thursday off and said he was a descendant of Robert Fulton, of which no collateral evidence was offered.

The telegraph office under the tower had to be abandoned and little except the books and two instruments were saved. Behrens & Avery's stalls were burned out but the other stalls were not badly damaged aside from the damage to the produce by water. Dealers in the central and north parts of the market escaped the water.

The old Fulton Market is a two story brick building and occupies the block bounded by Fulton, South, Beekman and Front streets. Opposite it is the new Fulton Market occupied by fish dealers.

## STOKER RICH IN BOGUS BILLS

SCATTERED 300 \$2 NOTES THAT FOOLED NEW YORK BANKS.

Caught When He Tried to Sell 500 More to Secret Service Man for \$675—Spelling Treasury "Treasury" Was the Italian Engraver's Only Error.

There's an engraver in Leghorn, Italy, who when he is not spelled "Treasurer" will be able to turn out United States counterfeit five dollar bills—unless something happens to him—which even a drug store cashier might be pardoned for handing to you as "something just as good." Maybe you have one of them now; five hundred of the bank notes were unloaded on New York about a month ago, according to the local secret service men, who were the cause yesterday of having a boss coal stoker on an Italian ship placed in the Tombs, charged with trying to sell 500 more of the bills to a Federal agent for \$875 on Tuesday night in the back room of a saloon at Broadway and Bleecker street.

Just about a month ago the Federal authorities heard of the arrival in town of the first batch of the best made counterfeit bills that the secret service men have seen in many years. The counterfeit known as the Harrison head, because of the portrait of the former President on the note, bears signatures of the president and the cashier of the Mechanics and Metals Bank, which look real and which have passed muster in various New York banks and business houses.

The quality of the paper, the scroll work, the series numbers will pass for the real thing. But the engraver in Italy forgot one small matter which looked large when a bill was placed under a magnifying glass at one of the banks. Below the registrar's name on the face of the bill in minute lettering is the misspelled word "treasurag." The red and blue strands of silk that well born bills from Washington show were copied so carefully with ink that they appeared also to be real until one tore the bill across the "strand."

Secret service men who started after the counterfeiters noted that the coming of the bill to town was simultaneous with the arrival here a month ago of the steamer Italia of the Anchor Line. The agents placed the crew of the Italia on their suspected list and when she next came into port they placed some one down in the stokehole whose business it was to look about and get acquainted.

The banks in the meantime were on the lookout for the bad bills and taking them up. In the last week or so bank officials have kept the telephones of the local secret service men busy as they called up to say that they had bagged another of the bad notes. Before putting them in circulation the distributors had taken care to crumple them and cover them with grime.

It was evident the notes had been printed from engraved plates. The Federal agents got their heads together and decided that there was a counterfeiter in the country. The agents crooked now at large with skill enough to turn out so clever a piece of work. So Richard Taylor, head of the local secret service, reasoned that the notes probably had been made in Italy and were being brought to this country for distribution by some one working on the crew of an Italian steamer.

When the Italia got here from the Mediterranean last Sunday the work of the agents had progressed so successfully that on Tuesday night an agent had arranged a meeting with a stoker, Cesare Paoletti, 40 years old, to take place in the back room of the saloon at Bleecker street and Broadway. The agent represented himself to the stoker as a private banker and offered to buy a bundle of the bad money. The agents charge that Paoletti came to her saloon with \$2,500 in the \$5 counterfeit bills.

The agent agreed to take over this roll at once and pay in return \$475. All this being agreed, the agent says that as they sat in the back room Paoletti told him all about the engraving of the plate by an artist at Livorno, who, the agent says, he was informed, got 1,000 francs for the job.

Paoletti and the agent had got this far when down toward their table swooped Chief Taylor and one of his men who had been waiting. The deal, however, was arrested and followed broke Paoletti all up. Only a moment before hadn't the "private banker" opposite him told Paoletti in excited tones that he had bought the stoker could bring in him from Tuscan?

Paoletti was taken to Headquarters for the night and was arraigned yesterday before United States Commissioner

### STROLLERS STILL STROLL.

Not True, Club Members Say, That the Organization is Defunct.

In spite of the fact that ashes and rue were solemnly spread over the alleged remains of the Strollers Club by a yesterday's evening scorchier the corpse refuses to stay put. It arose last night and in the person of one of its board of governors brusquely announced itself in the land of the living.

"It is not true that the Strollers have ceased to exist," said Eugene Van Schaick of the board of governors at his home at the Ansonia last night. "It is true that we gave up our home at 67 Madison avenue, holding our last meeting there on November 29, but we are now negotiating for a new clubhouse. Of course we are not yet in a position to give out any details as to our progress, but the Strollers is by no means a defunct organization."

Said another member: "The Children of Israel spent many years strolling about without a home, but if any stroller of the race appeared in a Philistine paper it was undoubtedly found to be premature later."

The club obtained an option on some property in Fort fourth street, and according to Mr. Van Schaick, exercising the option, would the property and is now in a position to go ahead. Robert C. Sands is still president and Howard C. Colby, George Ethridge, Louis Livingston, Howard H. Pell and Robert C. Watson are among the governors.

## Gifts in Gorham Goldware

While the name of the Gorham Company is inseparably associated with Silverware of superior character, it should be remembered that the Company also produces many articles in Gold of greater value and, perhaps indeed, of greater beauty.

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### EYE HD GD TI.

Thus the Telegrapher's Report of a Dinner to Two Fortunate Comrades.

Eye had got it at tigrs dar las ni. This is merely the approved Phillips code way of breaking the news that everybody had a good time last night at Mouquin's Sixth avenue restaurant at the complimentary dinner given James Whalen and Daniel Mallen, recently made manager and assistant manager of the main office of the Postal Telegraph Company, by their friends who have grown up with them in the business.

"G" denoted the excitement of the

evening and there were loud cries of "G" denoting fine business, and shouts of "G" meaning "understand" when ever an affectionate reference was made to "good old Jack" or "dear old Dan." There were about seventy in all and every sort of telegrapher was represented there were telegraphers from Wall Street, newspaper offices and the Stock Exchange and doctors and lawyers and members of the Stock Exchange who are telegraphers no more.

Patrick F. Larkin of T. L. Munson & Co. was toastmaster. Among those present were C. F. Leonard, superintendent of C. Shirley, assistant superintendent of traffic, and E. P. Tully, city manager, all of the Postal Telegraph Company.

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